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07 June 2004

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

(By FAX to 703 872 9306)

Before the United States Patent & Trademark Office

Application No. 10/628,891

A. Michael Chambers, Examiner

Art Unit 3753

Reply to Office Action with a mailing date of 03 June 2004

Dear Mr. Chambers:

I have carefully reviewed the teaching of Sordello *et al* (U.S. Patent 5,507,310). I must respectfully disagree with your rejection of claims 1-17 of Application No. 10/628,891 based on 35 U.S.C. §102(b). My disagreement is based on the following two facts, either one of which makes rejection unwarranted.

1. Proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) requires that the reference disclose every element of the claimed invention. In this case, Sordello *et al* do not even come close. Exterior water outlets are at the heart of the invention disclosed by Application No. 10/628,891. Sordello *et al* disclose no exterior water outlet at all. Sordello *et al* disclose, as you correctly point out, two inlets to allow water to flow into the vehicle. However, they disclose no place for usable water to flow out of the vehicle. Although proper 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection requires that the reference actually, either expressly or inherently, describe each feature, not merely hint at the feature, in this case, there does not even seem to be a hint about any exterior water outlet in Sordello *et al*.

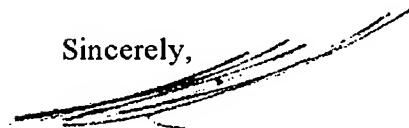
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2. It is not appropriate to conclude (base on Figure 8 of Sordello *et al*) that the inlets are disposed on different sides of the vehicle. Figure 8 is a schematic showing what-is-~~connected-to-what~~. It is not appropriate to use that sort of schematic to infer actual spatial relationships. Even if anything spatial could be inferred, it would be more appropriate to conclude that the inlets were on different sides of the water distribution manifold than to conclude that the inlets were on different sides of the vehicle.

It is unfortunate that the copies sent with the IDS were hard to read. I apologize. You stated that better copies have been ordered. If it would be helpful for me to mail paper copies or to FAX copies with the relevant portions enlarged, please let me know. Again, I apologize that FAX transmission was not kind to the detailed, colored images.


Sincerely,



Paul H. Demchick
Registered Patent Agent
USPTO Registration #52,808

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent & Trademark Office, FAX Number (703) 872-9306 on 07 June 2004.



Paul H. Demchick